

*Approved Mini Meeting Summary  
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group  
Hutchinson Island Marriott, Stuart, FL  
May 5, 2004*

**Welcome and Administrative Announcements**

Jay Slack called the meeting to order at 12:15PM. Joe Frank representing the Bureau of Indian Affairs said he resides in the Big Cypress and was very interested in everything this group does since it affects how he lives.

<b>Working Group Members</b>	<b>May 5</b>	<b>Alternates</b>
Ernie Barnett – FL Dept of Environmental Protection	-	
Frank Bernardino – South Florida Water Management District	√	
Billy Causey – NOAA, FL Keys Nat'l Marine Sanctuary	√	
Alex Chester – NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	-	Essie Duffie
Carol Clark – National Park Service	-	
Wayne Daltry – Southwest FL Regional Planning Council	-	
Dennis Duke - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	-	
Gene Duncan – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of FL	√	
Christopher M. Flack – Office of the Governor of Florida	-	
Roman Gastesi, Jr. – Miami Dade County	√	
T. Niles Glasgow – U.S. Department of Agriculture	√	
George Hadley – U.S. Dept of Transportation	-	
Richard Harvey – Environmental Protection Agency	-	
Norman O. Hemming, III - U.S. Attorney's Office	-	
Kenneth B. Metcalf - Department of Community Affairs	-	Roger Wilburn
Donna Pope - FL Dept. of Transportation	-	Marjorie Bixby
Fred Rapach – Palm Beach County Water Utilities Dept	-	
W. Ray Scott - FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services	√	
Jay Slack – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	√	
Craig Tepper - Seminole Tribe of Florida	-	
Kenneth S. Todd – Palm Beach County Water Resources Manager	-	
Anna Townsend – Bureau of Indian Affairs	-	Joe Frank
Vacant - Broward County Department of Natural Resource Protection	-	
Joe Walsh - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	-	
Jess D. Weaver – U.S.G.S.	-	
Greg May, Special Advisor	√	
Rock Salt, Science Coordination Group Liaison	-	

**Director's Update**

Greg May reminded everyone to provide their feedback on the Strategic Plan/Biennial Report by May 20<sup>th</sup>. He requested their preference for a conference call versus a meeting to discuss the plan. He noted that the CSOP Advisory Team looked forward to receiving written agency positions. Jay Slack said they envision a written summary. Greg welcomed Working Group feedback on the plan to coordinate science that is being prepared by the Science Coordination Group. He noted that the Biennial Report will still address some science aspects and particularly interested in their feedback on the indicators of success which were last updated in 1999. He asked if anyone had suggestions on more current indicators until the new RECOVER indicators and come online. At Marti Albright's request the Office of the Executive Director will work with the Army to develop procedures for consultation with the Task Force. Greg welcomed input on the agenda for the September Task Force meeting. This meeting will overlap with the Coral Reef Task Force meeting.

**Chairman's Comments**

Jay Slack reviewed the feedback from the Task Force on the Multi-Species Management Workshop. Ms. Powers commented that communication needs to be factored into their next meeting. Jay noted the next step is to better understand the initial issues identified and then to identify recommended actionable items for the Task Force. He asked whether everyone was comfortable with using Bob Jones and whether the process was helpful. Gene Duncan said that from his perspective, everyone's individual comments got lost

when they are summarized into a single statement. Jay acknowledged that we did not want to lose individual comments, but he needed to provide the Task Force with an update to make sure they were headed in the right direction. Greg May said their process to provide feedback should include an analysis and synthesis of information to distill two or three strategic issues with the highest value-added. Roger Wilburn said the process is trying to meld diverse points of view and interests. He thought they should work on moving those items blessed by the Task Force forward and that it was a good process to get them going. Greg encouraged the members to look for issues that will add value above and beyond what is being done at the agency level.

Gene noted all the comments were aimed at the draft Multi-Species Recovery Plan and asked why that document is not revised to incorporate those comments. Jay said that would take another strategic commitment by all the member agencies to actually do it. They could plan forever, but in the meantime they have been asked to determine and recommend strategic issues for the Task Force. Niles Glasgow asked whether they were developing a philosophy or plan to actually execute something. Jay said they were trying to do the former and it would be something the Task Force members could take back to their agencies or tribes. Greg added that the agencies and tribes all have a role in restoration and there are times when these separate roles create friction. Sometimes there are gaps. At this point the multi-species workshop is intended to identify the friction points and gaps. Jay noted that they could use a similar process at the next meeting to help further refine their work and possibly come up with actionable items. He thought the collaborative process is good. Billy Causey said there needs to be a clear articulation in the report as to why there is a conflict, citing the Tribe's concerns for example. That would help the public process as they start to implement the Plan. Gene said this would go to the heart of the matter and appreciated Billy's comments. Jay said that would work with Bob to develop an agenda that would facilitate these needs.

Gene Duncan said he heard on NPR that the Corps' dredge project off Ft. Lauderdale was approved and asked whether that is the same project Brenda Chalifour has been talking about. Billy Causey said the permit has not yet been issued. His agency had previously withdrawn their concerns, but would try to reinsert them based on some problems they had in Key West. The dredging in Key West had four incursions due to human error and wiped out hundreds of square meters of living coral. He understood that they still have an opportunity to raise concerns.

Gene asked for discussion at a future meeting on the idea of development pressure within the CERP footprint. He noted Lakes by the Bay where the District approved the permit for development. He said there are continuous permit applications within the CERP footprint and he said it would not hurt to have a discussion by the member agencies. Jay Slack noted that he and Richard Harvey have brought this issue up many times. As regulatory agencies, they are looking at what is happening in SW Florida because there is not a boundary between the developed urban area and the natural areas. This process is changing land values, the footprints of potential reservoirs and is a big issue. Jay noted that multi species management is an ecosystem approach. He said this may be something they need to add to the list. Gene said he wanted to make a distinction between people that own the land and are willing to have it restored as opposed to people who own land within the CERP footprint and have every intention of developing it and prevent a CERP project from moving forward. Greg said this was a great example of an issue where they need to think about the role everyone would play. He added that in order for this process to work the counties, RPCs, and agencies would all need to fulfill their roles. The Corps has taken a regional watershed approach in SW Florida with the SW Florida regional EIS. As a result EPA, the counties and the public have a tremendous amount of information available and new tools in some areas. He thought it would be helpful if they could provide strategic issues for the Task Force and identify things they could help the agencies and the local communities do their jobs. Roger Wilburn offered to put together a Planning 101 presentation, showing who reviews what and at what level.

Jay Slack also suggested asking the Corps and WMD put together a presentation on the permitting process. Greg suggested listing all of the issues they want to discuss at the next several meetings, vet them against their priorities and develop achievable agendas. Gene agreed there are a lot of facets to this problem, but the key is to figure out where the Working Group can make a difference. Jay said he wanted the perspective of the Corps of Engineers with respect to their constraints and abilities. Billy said the needs

have been identified and they need to be communicated to the appropriate planning councils and agencies. Although permits have been issued they can be withdrawn.

Jay noted the Task Force also discussed their consultation role and involving the Working Group at some level.

Joe Walsh reported they have a lease from the DEP Division of state lands for a small game management area called Lake Harbor which has been sub leased to a corporation for organic farming of rice and crayfish. He said that the corporation is backing out with the lease due to expire in January. The Waterfowl Section would like to see the 620 acres used for CERP, possibly for a STA or supplemental reservoir. He offered to discuss the possibilities with DEP and the WMD. Frank Bernardino asked Joe to send him an e-mail with the information.

### **Public Comment**

April Gromnicki (Audubon of Florida) thanked the group for taking up the issue of development pressure but said that was only side of the coin. The other issue is how to protect the remaining Everglades, specifically the section between Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park. The urban development boundary has done the job up until now but it may no longer be a certainty. How to protect the remaining Everglades remains to be answered.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Enclosure:

1. Agenda